

Message Text

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14

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

IO-11 OFA-01 CG-00 ACDA-05 DOTE-00 COME-00 INT-05

NSF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /090 W

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R 212154Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6724

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, IT, XV

SUBJECT: ANTARCTICA: ITALIAN EXPEDITION

1. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR NILSEN INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF ANTARCTIC TREATY SIGNATORY EMBASSIES TO LUNCH JANUARY 20. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS PERSONAL INITIATIVE DUE TO HIS OWN INTEREST IN ANTARCTIC AFFAIRS, NOT AN OFFICIAL NORWEGIAN DEMARCHE. PRESENT WERE AMBASSADOR, CHARGES, OR POLITICAL OFFICERS OF UK, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM, JAPAN, ARGENTINA, SOUTH AFRICA, US, AND SENIOR CAREER OFFICIALS OF GOC FON MIN. NILSEN SAID HE HOPED GROUP COULD MEET REGULARLY, COORDINATE POSITIONS, AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON ANTARCTIC.

2. ASIDE FROM GENERAL CONVERSATION ON ANTARCTIC, NILSEN RAISED SPECIFIC QUESTION OF AN ITALIAN EXPEDITION WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE ON WAY TO WEDDELL SEA AREA. HE ASKED IF ANYONE HAD RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF EXPEDITION FROM THIS NON-TREATY COUNTRY. ONLY INFORMATION ON SUBJECT WAS HELD BY CHILEAN OFFICIAL WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOC HAD RECEIVED NOTE FROM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT STATING THAT "PRIVATE" EXPEDITION SPONSORED BY ITALIAN POLAR INSTITUTE

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WAS LEAVING ITALY FOR ANTARCTIC IN DECEMBER AND REQUESTING GOC

HELP SHOULD EXPEDITION ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES. CHILEAN OFFICIAL SAID GOC WOULD OFFER NO MORE THAN NORMAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF NEED, AND HAD SUGGESTED TO GOI THAT IT SIGN ANTARCTIC TREATY.

3. NILSEN ASKED US EMBOFF SPECIFICALLY IF, WITH OUR SUPERIOR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, WE COULD MAKE INQUIRIES TO ROME ABOUT ITALIAN EXPEDITION.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME TO KNOWLEDGE OF PRESENT EMBASSY SANTIAGO STAFF THAT ANYONE IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAS SHOWN SUCH INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA. NILSEN ARRIVED IN CHILE IN AUGUST 1975, AND MAY AS HE SAYS BE REFLECTING ONLY A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMMODATE HIS INTEREST, AND REQUEST ANY INFORMATION ON ITALIAN EXPEDITION WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE.
POPPER

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